



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE OUTSIDE IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 15, 2019

Agenda Item: Mount Haggin WMA Grassy Mountain Addition, R3

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

FWP proposes to purchase in fee title a 244-acre parcel of native habitat adjacent to Mount Haggin WMA. The Grassy Mountain property offers many qualities that are attractive to FWP:

- It borders Mount Haggin WMA on its western boundary and adjoins another addition to Mount Haggin WMA to the south that was recently approved by the Land Board at their July meeting.
- It includes 1 mile of riparian corridor and associated wetlands of Oregon Creek.
- Located just below the Continental Divide, it supports a migration corridor for mule deer and elk along with calving/fawning areas and summer range.
- Sugarloaf Lodge property (~150 ac), a thriving commercial recreational property, borders the Grassy Mountain Addition on the east, making the Grassy Mountain Addition property more at risk for development especially with the Mount Haggin WMA cross-country ski trails nearby.
- It would increase public access for hunting, angling, trapping, wildlife-watching, and other recreational opportunities.
- There is no development on the property.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Formal public involvement has not been solicited by FWP to date. Upon endorsement by the commission, FWP would conduct appropriate due diligence, analysis, and public review processes.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Proposal alternatives and analysis would be developed by FWP (upon endorsement by the commission) and released in a draft EA for public review/comment opportunity.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends endorsement of this proposal, allowing the department to further pursue and evaluate it and to offer opportunities for public review and comment.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission endorse the proposal to negotiate acquisition of the Grassy Mountain Addition to Mount Haggin WMA and complete associated analysis.